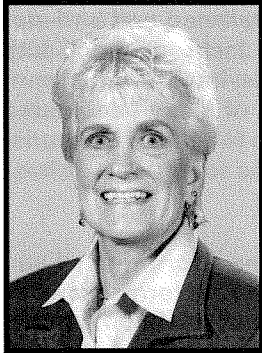


# Hammerstrom's

for the people  
in the 17th Senate District

# Hotline



State Senator  
**Bev Hammerstrom**  
State Capitol • Lansing, MI 48913  
1-888-477-8238  
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**HELP MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES STAY IN TOUCH** Some of the most memorable gifts that will be received this holiday season are phone calls to and from loved ones who are serving our country and cannot be with their families. In an effort to help with the cost of these phone calls, the Family Programs Office, within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, is collecting and will be distributing telephone calling cards to our troops and their families. While any brand of card is welcomed, AT&T cards are preferred for their ease of use and limited restrictions. For those wishing to donate telephone calling cards in amounts between 60 and 120 minutes, please send them to the Family Programs Office, c/o Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, 2500 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48913. For more information, please call the Family Programs Office at (517) 702-5116.

**DID YOU KNOW?** There are 31 Michigan soldiers listed on the personnel roster of the *USS Arizona* who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

**NEW LAW CHANGES WAY TOWNSHIPS CAN PUBLISH NOTICES** Legislation recently signed into law would allow townships to move the publishing of notices into the 21st Century. Public Act 406 of 2004 amends the Charter Township Act and includes township websites as an option for public posting of municipal notices, ordinances, and proceedings. Previously, local municipalities were required to publish a synopsis of the proceedings in a local newspaper and in five other public places within the township. With this new law, a township board has the option to publish its notices, ordinances, and proceedings either in a newspaper and on the township website, or by a posting in the township clerk's office and five other places in the township. According to committee testimony on the bills, the current laws for posting are considerably costly and time consuming. Posting on the Internet is a more cost-effective alternative. The new law goes into effect immediately.

**MICHIGAN FREEDOM TRAIL REGISTER** The Michigan Freedom Trail Commission, part of the Michigan Historical Center, announced the launch of the Michigan Freedom Trail Register. The register will be used as a resource that will identify and promote sites, programs, and facilities that tell the story of the Underground Railroad and anti-slavery activity in Michigan. Residents in counties across the state, including Washtenaw and Jackson, were actively involved in resisting slavery in the nineteenth century. The Flint Underground Railroad Heritage Project and the Journey to Freedom Underground Railroad Tour of Washtenaw County are two examples of likely candidates for program designation on the register. The Commission is seeking nominations from the public for other programs and sites to be included. To learn more about the Michigan Freedom Trail Register or to find forms to nominate sites and programs, please visit [www.michigan.gov/freedomtrail](http://www.michigan.gov/freedomtrail) or call (517) 335-2726.

**INSURANCE HELPLINE AVAILABLE AT IIM** The Insurance Institute of Michigan offers a free informational service to Michigan residents who may have insurance questions. Established in 1979, the Insurance Information Hotline serves as a source of information on all types of insurance. Personnel also handle complaints about companies and agents, but do not recommend companies, agents, or types of insurance coverage to consumers. However, consumers can request reference material on specific subjects, such as how to shop around for the best deal on insurance. Consumers can call the Insurance Information Hotline, toll-free, at 1-800-777-8005 or send e-mail to [iimhotline@aol.com](mailto:iimhotline@aol.com).

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If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail, please contact me at [SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov)